

INDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# MARC

Ham Radio News From Central Indiana

Volume X No. 3

March 1994

## SPRINT SPEECH



THIS HAPPENS EVERY TIME I TRY TO SET A DECENT ANTENNA IN ONE OF THESE JOINTS!

## CLUB HONORS CHARTER MEMBERS

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The record setting crowd established a new club record for attendance. The room was filled to capacity forcing club officers to dig out and dust off all of the extra folding chairs.

Club members, new and old alike, had a chance to reflect on the growth and changes that have taken place over the past decade. Four of the original charter members were present for the celebration.

Recognized for their contributions were Joan Kemp N9DON, Dave Wendt KA9OOH, Bob Doles WB9AYB, and Homer Keesling, WB9OZZ. They helped cut and eat a large cake that was baked and decorated for the special occasion by Anne Leser. Anne is an honorary member of MARC. The half white and half chocolate cake was decorated with the Mid-State ARC logo and the words, "10th Anniversary February 1984-1994."



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After months of research the following names have been established and will appear on a special Charter Member Plaque: Paul Thomas KA9DTH, Bill Fisher KG9K, Darrell Sego KM9S, Joan Kemp N9DON, Larry Kemp N9DLN, Dan Cammack W9MLN, Tom Carroll N9AZD, Bob Doles WB9AYB, Homer Keesling WB9OZZ, David Wendt KA9OOH, Brad Stone

NB9M and I.A. Sanders WA9RDF.

Some of the other unconfirmed prospects for the list are: Ed Woods, WD9DVA, Dave Distler, KN9E, Dan Dews, KK9G, Bruce Sprague, WD9DWD, Toby Monk, WB9TSW, Larry Oakes, WB9YAJ, Til Kinser, KI9R, Jay Chrisman, KA9MUU, Tom Siefert, WB9RCI, Tom Cashion, KD9EQ, and Walt Howard, W9FWF.

If anyone in the ham community can confirm anyone from this list (or someone not listed) please inform NV9KI Our goal is an accurate list of those early club pioneers.

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and on a newly developed WISH TV weather channel now available on area cable systems.

Following his presentation, the club voted to make Ben Woods an honorary member of the Mid-State ARC. Ben was cited for his many presentations to our club meetings and for his regular contributions to our monthly newsletter with his column, "Bens Weather Tips".

It's people like Ben, Joan, Dave, Bob, and Homer that make our club one of the best and fastest growing clubs in the State of Indiana!

## VE testing to resume

The East Central Indiana Test Team will resume testing on March 19th following the MARC meeting.

The team, sponsored by the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club, tests on the 3rd saturday of each month March through November.

Some of the changes that are to take place this year should be noted by those of you who intend to test in 94:

The fee has been increased to \$5.75 from \$5.60. A new 610 form must be used. (None of the old forms will be accepted by the FCC.)

Because of the new 610 form, all paper work submitted can not be returned to the applicant. This means that you must submit photo copies of your original license, and photo copies of each of your Certificates Of Completion.. In the past if you did not pass your exam your

COSC's would be returned to you. Since the new 610 form has no place to record COSC's they must be submitted with the paper work.

Also, effective in February, all Certificates must be signed by the applicant before they can be issued.

Amateurs who are considering a name change, address change, call change, or license renewal are reminded to use the new form 610. These forms can be obtained from any of the following test team members:

Jim Anderson N9KVX, Anna Amholt K9RXK, Terry Chapman WR9Z, Mike Holland AA9FP, Bill McCullen N9QED, Jack Parker NT9J, Jon Roberts N9QYD, Joe Rogers KF9LQ, Louis Rodenbeck WE9M, Richard Shelton N6RS, Brian Smith WW9A, James Smith WV9W, Pat Wagner WA9AAV, Dave Wendt KA9OOH, and Mac McCarty NV9K. These team members should obtain 610's from NV9K at the March Club meeting.

The general class license pool will change effective July 1. If you have been studying the present pool make sure you test before that date!

This year the team will continue the practice of publicizing in the Spark-Gap ONLY the names of those who earn an upgrade. Partial completion of elements and failures will NOT be publicized!

### Three kinds of people:

Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened!



## More HT battery capacity!

There are a lot of amateurs in our area who have only an HT for 2 meter communications. Keeping batteries charged can sometimes be a real hassle. An article in the February issue of World Radio suggests an answer to this problem.

The author, Cary Magnum W6WWW, discovered a battery source with a much greater capacity that can be quickly recharged. The answer? Nicads that are used in power tools!

Power tool Nicads have a very large capacity and are light in weight. With an appropriate case they can be carried in the hand, purse, or pocket. They are rapidly recharged from 12V DC(auto) or 120V AC. Some of these batteries can power a Hand-Held for days!

The major problem of course is to make a battery case suitable for use with a hand-held transciever. The article gives instructions on making a case for use with power-tool Nicads. The end result is that three batteries can be purchased for the same price as one Icom 600 mAh unit but will supply seven times the capacity!

I have made several copies of the article and will make them available at the March club meeting to anyone who might be interested.

-NV9K

INDIANA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

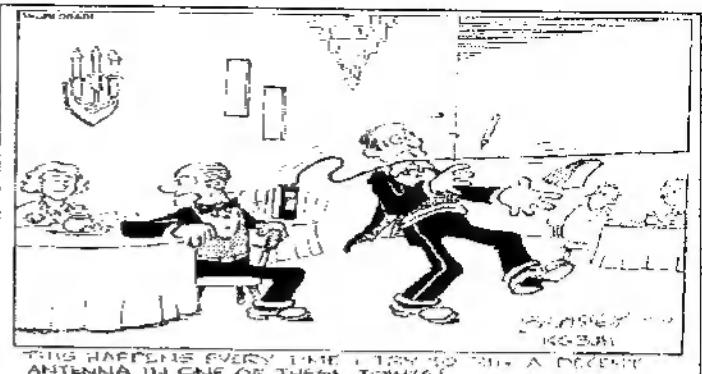
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# DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS CLUB MEMBER?



This month's active mystery club member is present at most of our club meetings. He will be identified at the March meeting.

## Receive ATV with your VCR!

Many of the newer VCR's can receive Amateur television (ATV) in the 70 cm Amateur band without modification. How?

First, set the VCR for CATV. Then, if there is a switch labeled IRC-STD-HRC, select STD. Set the channel selector for cable channel 57, 58, 59, or 60. That's it for the settings.

If the nearest ATV repeater isn't close by, you will need to install a UHF TV antenna on the roof and point it at an ATV repeater. Connect the antenna to the VCR cable input (in some older Hitachi models, use the UHF input).

Your VCR may need a signal before the auto-tune will work. Some RCA units, for example, will skip a channel with no signal or a weak signal. If this happens, you could install a small bullet pre-amplifier (less than \$20) at the antenna, but don't do that if you intend to transmit on the same antenna. Also, high-quality coax such as Belden 9913 will minimize feedline loss.

Each channel tunes a center frequency six MHz higher, starting with channel 57 at 423 MHz. Unfortunately, if you have an older cable-ready VCR, the highest cable channel you can tune is 36, so ATV isn't possible.

And if you are shopping for a new VCR, be sure to check the highest cable channel it can tune to make sure it covers channels 57 through 60. On my JVC machine, reception quality is nearly as good as with an ATV down-converter.

by Fred Lehmann, WAOPBL from the Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System "Repeater"

## Speaker for March meeting to discuss emergency communications for recent Midwest flood

Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, is no stranger to disasters. In fact, his job often requires him to move from one disaster to another. Bob works with the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency.

As a member of the Forward Response Team, Bob is often one of the first people to respond to a disaster somewhere in the state. His team specializes in setting up emergency communications.

Last fall when flood waters drenched the mid-west Bob and his team were dispatched to help out local emergency management officials in southern Indiana.

At the March 19th club meeting Bob will talk about his experiences and how he helped the victims of the worst flooding disaster in the mid-west in 500 years.

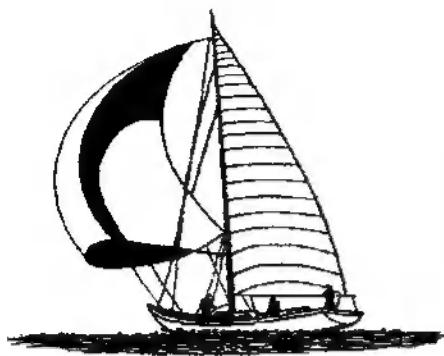


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## Falling overboard

By Lois Clark McCoy WB6MME

My awareness of emergencies began at an early age. I was born and raised on an ocean-going 42 foot yawl, and I didn't live ashore until I was eight years old.

Aboard the yacht, my father taught me how to avoid disaster in emergencies. He said to expect emergencies at sea, and to prepare for them. He expressed his overriding theme, "You only get to fall overboard once."

What's the difference between emergency and disaster? An emergency becomes a disaster when the resources available are inadequate to contain and recover from a threatening event.

But in time of disaster, you say, American citizens volunteer to fill any shortfall in resources. The tradition of volunteerism is one of a community's greatest strengths, and amateur radio has a long history of being a part of that volunteer emergency service.

Anyone who knows of Santa Barbara's Paint Fire understands that even a paradise can be vulnerable to disaster. In the Paint Fire, the emergency response phase

spanned just three hours. Yet the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club found itself short of trained emergency radio operators.

The key word is *trained*. The Paint Fire was scary and truly terrible; it burned more American homes than any fire in history except the fire after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Yet the Santa Barbara fire burned only one canyon and took place on a single day!

If, as a ham, you think yourself a capable communicator, I must tell you that you will be disappointed. Your performance will be inadequate unless you have been trained as an emergency radio operator!

The reason is physical—the unexpected physical reaction to sudden, severe stress that all experience—even astronauts. Astronauts train and train, to reduce the time between the shock of the unexpected and the recovery to functionality. Firemen, policemen, and paramedics are so highly trained after years of service that the time it takes them to recover from a shock is unnoticeable except by other professionals.

People need training because the body recovers ahead of the mind, reacting in senseless ways unless the mind maintains control. Responding to emergencies is not part of your day-to-day routine, because you don't normally put yourself in harm's way.

Until you take emergency training, you won't understand how different the task of running a

communications post becomes under the stress of worry about your family, your home, your safety, or the safety of your neighbors! Training allows you to focus, and to concentrate all your energy on the emergency matters at hand.

But with training, a person or a whole community can learn to perceive a catastrophe as a challenge. According to Dr. Norman Cousins, "A challenge tends to fix the mind on new options, and to produce excitement connected with achieving new goals. People who accept a difficult situation as an energizing challenge are able not just to cope with an emergency, but to exert leadership in converting the panic of others into rational and lifesaving responses."

So coping with disaster doesn't so much test a community's state of preparedness as its reflexes—those actions undertaken as a result of its training and readiness, or the lack of it. That is the most persuasive argument for training.

Rather than "fall overboard" when disaster strikes, take the training your local emergency-oriented club offers. Only then will you be prepared for the unexpected!

This is an edited version of an article posted shortly after Santa Barbara's 1991 Paint Fire. Lois Clark McCoy is a nationally recognized veteran emergency services and civil defense professional who lives in Santa Barbara.

**Don't forget the meeting this saturday! Let's try to match last month's attendance!**



----After a meal in a posh restaurant these days, you need an after-dinner mint, THE ONE IN DENVER!

----You can't fool all the people all the time...Highway-interchange signs come pretty close, however.

----Talk is cheap...unless you hire a lawyer.

----Snowfall...Those who show me stars in it...Have never pushed their cars in it.

----Behind every successful man there's a woman saying...What do you mean you're going to be late for dinner?

----The best years of a man's life are when the kids are old enough to help shovel the snow but too young to drive the car.

----The husband who can't understand why his wife can find nothing to wear in her full closet is the same guy who can't find anything to eat in a full refrigerator.

----Kids have grown up when they stop asking where they came from and refuse to tell you where they are going.

----Personally, I've always liked January and February, when my lawn looks the same way it does the rest of the year, only now there's a reason.

----Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead ought to tell a child to go to bed.

----Eating like a bird takes on a new meaning after you've bought food for them all winter.

#### MEANINGS OF WHAT MEN SAY

"I work in an executive office tower." (He's a window washer.)

"I work with computers." (He's a cashier at a self-service gas station.)

"I have the Midas touch." (He installs mufflers.)

"I'm in television." (He fixes them.)

"I'm involved in banking." (He's a guard at the bank.)

"I play the market." (Krogers)

"My job keeps me running." (He's a messenger.)

"My business is hot!" (He hands out towels in a steam room.)

"I'm self-employed." (He just got fired.)

"I'm consulting." (He's looking for a job.)

----How do some men avoid making a wrong career move? They never get a job!

----The epitaph on the gravesite of an army mule read: "Here lies Lucy, who in her time kicked two colonels, four majors, one captain, twenty four lieutenants, forty two sergeants, ninety privates, and one bomb."

----I won't say she eats a lot, but she puts mayonnaise on Bufferin.

----A marine recruit was given a comb. The next day they shaved off all his hair. Later that day, they gave him a toothbrush. Ten minutes later, the dentist pulled his teeth. The next morning the recruit was given an athletic supporter. He's still AWOL.

----They now have a new S&L wristwatch. The little hand is on the ten, and the big hand is in the till.

----Last night a bill collector came to my house. I gave him a stack about a foot high.

----Just think of it this way: When you're on trial, your fate is being decided by twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty!

----A credit card is what you use to buy today what you can't afford tomorrow because you're still paying for yesterday.

----The toughest part of dieting is not watching what you eat. It's watching what your friends eat.

----A patient is terribly overweight, and the doctor tells him, "I want you to eat normally for two days, then skip a day. In a month, you'll lose forty pounds."

The patient returns in a month, gets on the scale, and the reading shows that he has lost the required forty pounds. The doctor said, "Great! You lost all that weight just from following my diet?"

"Yep, but I have to tell you that I almost died that third day!"

"From hunger?"

"No, from skipping!"



WE WERE ARGUING THE RELATIVE MERITS OF A 1/2 WAVE WAGAONET VS A 5/8 MINE, AND HE CHALLENGED ME TO A DUEL!

# BENS WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

On March 20 at 3:48 p.m. spring officially arrives! With spring comes severe weather season and the week of the 13th through the 19th is "Tornado Awareness Week" in Indiana.

Once again, a state-wide tornado drill will be the highlight of the week and is planned for March 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.. This cooperative effort of the National Weather Service, State Emergency Management Agency, Indiana State Police, and Indiana Department of Education will test the watch and warning communication capabilities.

Severe weather "NETS" will be activated as if a real tornado watch and warning have been issued. Active participation from HAMS is very welcomed.

This year also happens to mark the 20th anniversary of the April 3, 1974 tornado "Super Outbreak", the largest on record. In the 13 states hit, 351 people were killed, 7,500 homes were destroyed and 14,000 were damaged. Indiana alone had 47 deaths, and nearly 6,000 homes either destroyed or damaged!

Spring also has, of course, a pleasant aspect as well. We've had a few beautifully sunny and warm days, but don't be fooled! We've still got some cold and snow to go. In Indianapolis we were about as close to normal as one can be for our monthly temperature in the month of February.

The capital city averaged 29.7 degrees (0.1 degree above normal). February was fairly dry. Only 1.39 inches of precipitation fell, which is 1.07" below normal.

Typically, March is a wetter month when (in Indianapolis) we average 3.79 inches of precipitation. Snowfall last month totaled 4.1 inches (1.5" below normal). There were several mornings where rush hour was treacherous with icy and slick roads.

The outlook by The National Weather Service for March in central Indiana calls for near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Keep in mind that long range forecasts such as these are

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barely more accurate than flipping a coin. For example, back in November, The National Weather Service's forecast for the winter months (Dec. through Feb.) called for above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation in Indiana.

Well, this winter (in Indianapolis) we averaged 2.1 degrees colder than normal and 1.87 inches drier than normal. I advise you to put your trust in the short-range forecasts.

- Ben Woods, Channel 8 TV meteorologist

## MARC

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Club Repeater: 146.835

Spark-Gap is published monthly and is available by first class mail to non-members for \$5.00 per year.

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